

**PRESS RELEASE 22 April 2024**

***Monck Street -* the first street in Ireland to have a roof cover its entire length**.

*‘A great country if you could put a roof on it’* - Whilst we all know and appreciate that there is much more to Ireland than the weather, the Members of Wexford Borough District decided, rather than leave it to the Gods, they would accept the challenge. Last week, the fruit of their labour was witnessed with the official launch of the first street in Ireland to have a roof cover its entire length.

Monck Street, in the beautiful historic town of Wexford, now has a retractable roof canopy extending over 80 metres in length - another addition to Wexford town securing its position as a key tourist destination nationally.

The Monck Street Canopy is the final part of a major regeneration scheme that has transformed the once congested narrow street into a carefree pedestrianised zone where locals & visitors can dwell for a while and enjoy the host of local hostelries and food offerings.

Following a spend of over €1.5million, with the National Transport Authority Active Travel Programme providing €1.23m to fully fund the pedestrianisation works and street furniture together with a grant of €229,000 from Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme Wexford County Council has delivered a unique scheme to benefit the town into the future.

A walkway with lights on the ceiling

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Speaking at the launch, Mayor of Wexford, Councillor John Hegarty said:

“I welcome this very unique addition to Wexford town. I hope it is something that will add to the experience for locals and visitors alike as they come to enjoy this vibrant and thriving part of our town.”

Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Interim Chief Executive added:

“This is a new and innovative scheme for Wexford town and hopefully will lead the way in making our town centres even more vibrant and attractive places to come and visit.  We are particularly thankful to the National Transport Authority and Failte Ireland for the support they have provided in turning this vision into a reality for all to enjoy.  The Monck Street area will be a vibrant and popular place during Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in August for the next 2 years”.

Mr. Alan O’Shea, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel said:

The Civil works involved in the pedestrianisation of Monck Street*,* Wexford's newest pedestrianised street was funded by the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority's Active Travel Programme to a value of €1,230,099 as part of a multi annual spend.

Head of Ireland’s Ancient East Brian O’Flynn said:

“One of Fáilte Ireland’s key objectives is to encourage tourists to explore and stay in the region for longer, increase spend and help to drive revenue for local businesses. Wexford is an important part Ireland’s Ancient East and we’re pleased to further enhance this destination with the newly opened Monck Street Outdoor Dining Infrastructure, funded by Fáilte Ireland’s Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme and developed in partnership with Wexford County Council. Outdoor dining is now a permanent feature of our hospitality offering and we are committed to supporting businesses to facilitate this for longer periods throughout the year.”

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